

Livelihood concern

MP Kadhém criticises permit rule pushing Bahrainis into informal trade

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A rule that bars Bahrainis from holding a public or private job while running a mobile food truck or working as a street vendor was criticised in Parliament yesterday, with MP Jalal Kadhém saying it has led some citizens to sell without permits for fear of losing allowances and services.

Kadhém spoke as MPs discussed the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's reply on rules for street vendors, the use of roads and properties, and food sales from mobile vehicles.

He questioned why a citizen must leave employment to open a commercial registration or operate a truck, while expats on regular visas are, in his words, allowed to do "several jobs in a single day".

Pressure on household budgets, he said, has led more Bah-

rainis, including students and young men and women, to sell in residential areas.

Makeshift

"Some villages have turned into makeshift selling spots on pavements and tables," he said, urging organised options for vendors across the governorates.

He said mobile trucks, once seasonal, have become a main income source for many citizens, but unclear organisation and weak planning have contributed to disorder in different areas.

Kadhém called for existing rules and standards to be applied, alongside dedicated sites that meet vendors' needs, protect consumers and maintain the look of public spaces.

He urged Bahrain to learn from other Gulf states in creating dedicated markets for mobile trucks, pointing to models such as farmers' markets and the Qaisariya market, with services including electricity and suitable



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— H.E. WAEL AL MUBARAK, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER

spaces.

Kadhém welcomed the ministry's intention to launch an electronic system to manage licences and locations



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He also praised support for mobile trucks and street vendors

through Tamkeen programmes, and moves to allow social insurance subscriptions, saying this could help young people who are outside the social insurance system.

The lawmaker also referred to fish markets and selling facilities provided by the state, saying some citizens avoid working there because they fear allowances and support will be cancelled, raising what he described as problems in how social support is tied to income.

Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister, His Excellency Wael Al Mubarak, said regulating mobile trucks is meant to open opportunities for Bahraini youth, adding that the "human element" remains central to development.

Locations

He said proposals to identify sites and provide infrastructure were reasonable and would be considered, confirming that 12

1,100

Locations available to Bahrainis in popular markets, stalls and similar venues.

locations will be allocated for mobile trucks with basic services.

Al Mubarak said a new electronic system aimed at reinforcing transparency and fairness will be launched in the first quarter of the year.

He added that more than 1,100 locations are available to Bahrainis in popular markets, stalls and similar venues, alongside initiatives aimed at helping young Bahrainis expand their work in these activities.

Minister push for specific audit mechanism to verify figures supplied by CSB

Mohammed Darwish
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A debate over official hiring figures surfaced in Parliament yesterday after Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, His Excellency Ghanim Al Buainain, urged MP Dr Hisham Al Ashiri to agree a clear way to verify data supplied by the Civil Service Bureau.

"I hope we can agree on a specific mechanism to verify the figures," Al Buainain said, arguing that his reply was drawn from "the competent body (the Civil Service Bureau)".

He said there were other ways to cross-check the figures, naming the Social Insurance Organisation as one route.

"There are multiple ways to verify, including the Social Insurance Organisation, for example," he told MPs, while warning that any check must respect privacy.

"It is not possible to disclose people's data without their wish or consent," he said.

The minister said 3,884 employees were hired through the Civil Service Bureau from 2023 up to the date of the question, 24 December 2025, across a range of specialisations.

Of that total, 2,329 were tak-



H.E. Ghanim Al Buainain

en on in education and health. "Most recruitment has been channelled into the health system and education generally, because both are subject to international requirements when it comes to staffing teaching bodies, rather than administrative bodies," Al Buainain said.

He broke the 2,329 down as 1,702 education posts, 145 in higher education, 283 medical roles, 40 in pharmacy, eight in medical laboratories, 135 engineering posts and 16 engineering technician roles.

Al Buainain said hiring does not rest on public adverts alone, telling MPs that general adverts come only after other routes are used.

He described an internal vacancy system known as Shawaghir, allowing any government employee to apply for posts listed within a ministry.

Six confiscated vehicles for sale: Public Prosecution

● **Following serious traffic offences**

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Bahrain's Public Prosecution has announced the start of procedures to sell six vehicles confiscated under final court rulings issued in connection with serious traffic offences, in implementation of the amended Traffic Law.

The Deputy Head of the Criminal Enforcement Prosecution said all legal and financial procedures required to transfer ownership and register the vehicles as fixed assets had been completed, in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments.

A specialised company, Mazad, has been appointed to conduct technical valuation in preparation for offering the vehicles at public auction.

He explained that the con-



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Accidents

These included causing fatal accidents while driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, deliberately driving against

the flow of traffic resulting in accidents and damage, and operating vehicles with licence plates that had been legally withdrawn, including their use in unsafe stunt driving.

The Deputy Head of the Prosecution stressed that the confiscation measures form part of the Public Prosecution's commitment to enforcing court rulings and achieving the general deterrence intended by criminal penalties.

Measures

He noted that the measures are in line with recent legislative amendments under Decree-Law No. (30) of 2025 amending certain provisions of the Traffic Law, which expanded judicial powers to order the confiscation of vehicles involved in or used to commit serious traffic violations.

He called on motorists to strictly adhere to traffic regulations to avoid the tougher penalties stipulated by law, which aim to establish a safe and sustainable traffic system.

Online justice enforcement and remote hearings in the works

Mohammed Darwish
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Enforcement of judgments is now handled end-to-end online, the Ministry of Justice said, as it works on a service that would let parties attend court hearings by video link after a question in the Shura Council.

In a written reply to Dr Ali Al Haddad, the ministry said the enforcement process can now be run without personal attendance.

Judgment debtors can be notified electronically, enforcement steps can be started online, and requests and follow-up measures can be filed through digital channels.

Users can also check the status and outcome of enforcement applications electronically, including those tied to commercial disputes.

A range of litigation services has already shifted to Bahrain's eGovernment Portal.

MPs back fuel subsidy plan for fishermen's boats

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An urgent proposal to subsidise petrol used by fishermen and seafarers who run boats (locally known as Tara-rid) was approved by MPs on Tuesday.

The measure was put forward by MP Bader Al Tameemi and co-signed by four other MPs, and argues that rising petrol prices have fed straight through into higher running costs at sea, leaving boat owners under growing financial strain and affecting their ability to keep



MP Bader Al Tameemi

working. It describes marine fishing as a main income source for many citizens and an important part



Marine fishing is a main income source for many citizens and an important part of local food supply.

of local food supply, warning that higher costs could lead some fishermen to cut back on trips or stop, reducing fish available in the local market.

The text says boats operators rely almost entirely on fuel to run their boats and do not have workable alternatives, making them especially exposed to price rises.

As options, the proposal suggests either a supported fuel price or a fuel-card scheme limited to officially registered fishermen, aimed at ensuring fair access and directing support to those eligible.

TENDER NOTICE

The Embassy of Pakistan, Manama requires services of a professional company for cleaning its premises. Interested parties may collect the details of services required and tender documents on any working day from 14-01-2026 to 28-01-2026 between 0900-1400 hours.

Embassy of Pakistan

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